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<u>INDIANA'S HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM STRENGTHENED:</u> HOOSIERS TO BENEFIT FROM REGIONAL CAMPUS AGREEMENT

An agreement has been signed by Indiana University, Purdue University and the Commission for Higher Education to expand and enhance educational opportunities for Hoosier citizens. This agreement, targeted at strengthening the state's regional campuses and IUPUI, focuses on serving local communities through expanded degree programs at the bachelor and graduate levels.

The regional campuses of Indiana University and Purdue University, and IUPUI have been integral to the state's higher education system for the past forty years. The agreement augments the regional campuses' efforts to serve more Hoosiers by redefining missions to promote advanced degrees. This opportunity to refocus the direction of each campus was created with the advent of the state's new Community College of Indiana (CCI) system. Regional campuses can now embrace a renewed emphasis on offering more baccalaureate and master degree programs.

"This announcement is very good news for the state," said Governor O'Bannon, who launched the community college system less than two years ago. "The ultimate goal is to have a strong regional campus system and a strong community college system that complement each other. We will reach our goal of bringing more educational opportunities to Hoosiers by working together."

Demonstrating support for the Community College of Indiana (CCI), a partnership between Ivy Tech State College and Vincennes University, the agreement outlines how students earning an associate degree at a CCI campus can transfer to selected baccalaureate degree programs at a regional campus or IUPUI and complete the degree within two years. With this initial step, an increase in both the type and amount of transfer agreements between regional campuses, IUPUI, and CCI can be expected.

"This agreement is an important step toward allowing each public higher education institution in Indiana to focus on what it does best," said Dr. Myles Brand, President of Indiana University. "We can now move forward, in a cooperative spirit, to accomplish our common goal - providing the different types of higher education that Hoosiers will need to thrive in the 21st Century economy."

Emphasizing the need for strong preparation to ensure college success, the agreement also supports guaranteed admission for students completing Indiana's Core 40 and Academic Honors Diplomas, as well as refocusing some developmental course offerings to the community college.

Referral programs between the regional campuses, IUPUI, and the Community College of Indiana are being developed and expanded for students needing additional preparation prior to seeking a four-year degree. The regional campuses and IUPUI are dedicated to providing each student with a tailored list of requirements that must be met prior to acceptance. Upon successful completion of these requirements, students would receive automatic admission into a regional campus or IUPUI.

"This agreement will make our state's higher education system more accessible and user-friendly," said Purdue University President Martin C. Jischke. "We believe it will encourage a larger number of people to work beyond the associate degree to a more advanced level. This will have significant economic and social benefits for Indiana."